

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00773 221558Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01

ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02

DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /160 W

-----043632 221951Z /73

R 221235Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2740

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS DOHA 0773

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, QA

SUBJECT: QATAR OIL PRODUCTION FOR MAY

REF: DOHA 0610

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1. MAY 1977 QATAR CRUDE PRODUCTION WAS 12,213,360 BBL (394,000 BPD), OR APPROXIMATELY THREE MILLION BARRELS BELOW MAY 1976 PRODUCTION LEVELS. THIS IS SLIGHTLY UNDER APRIL 1977 LEVEL (405,906 BPD) AND CONTINUES TREND OF SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER PRODUCTION THAN LAST YEAR.

2. PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR MAY AND COMPRISON FIGURES FOLLOW:

| A. MAY CRUDE PRODUCTION BY COMPANY. | 1977 | 1976 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| SHELL (OFFSHORE) | 6,106,100 | 7,624,000 |
| QPC (ONSHORE) | 6,107,260 | 7,750,000 |

B. TOTAL CRUDE PRODUCTION:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| MAY | 12,213,360 BBL | 15,374,000 BBL |
| APRIL | 12,774,106 BBL | 14,579,000 BBL |
| AUGUST (HIGHEST 76 PRODUCTION) | | 16,139,000 BBL |
| DECEMBER | 15,255,000 BBL | |

2. REPRESENTATIVE FOR OFFSHORE OPERATIONS (SHELL) TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRODUCTION WAS DOWN AS RESULT OF EXTENSIVE REFITTING BEING CONDUCTED AT BUL HANINE FIELD (ONE OF THREE QATARI OFFSHORE FIELDS AND THE MOST RECENT TO REACH PRODUCTION). NEW SAFETY AND FIRE EQUIPMENT ARE APPARENTLY BEING INSTALLED IN RESPONSE TO RECENT RASH OF FIRES HERE. REP SAID SHELL STILL HOPED TO AVERAGE 250,000 BPD (OFFSHORE) FOR 1977 AND THIS WOULD MEAN SIGNIFICANTLY BOOSTING PRODUCTION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR.

3. COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT MAY ACCOUNT FOR DECLINE IN OFFSHORE CRUDE PRODUCTION BUT IT DOES NOT EXPLAIN COMPARABLE DECREASE IN ONSHORE PRODUCTION. THERE IS NO LACK OF CUSTOMERS FOR QATARI OIL AS RECENT VISITS BY MOBILE AND EXXON OFFICIALS DEMONSTRATE. DURING THESE VISITS COMPANIES WERE REMINDED BY QPPA (QATAR PETROLEUM PRODUCING AUTHORITY) OFFICIALS THAT 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER

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AGREEMENT STIPULATED THAT COMPANIES OTHER THAN FORMER QPC PARTNERS WOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN PURCHASING THE GOVTS SHARE OF PRODUCTION (APPROX. 100,000 BPD). THEY WERE TOLD THEY WOULD BE PUT ON A WAITING LIST BUT NOT TO BE OPTIMISTIC.

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Disposition Remarks:
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